

*The Royal School for the Blind,  
Liverpool*

*176th Annual Report*

*1966-67*

SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

*Administrative Office:*

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool, 15

Telephone : SEfton Park 4782

*With the Superintendent's Compliments*

1966-67

176th ANNUAL REPORT

THE ROYAL SCHOOL  
FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

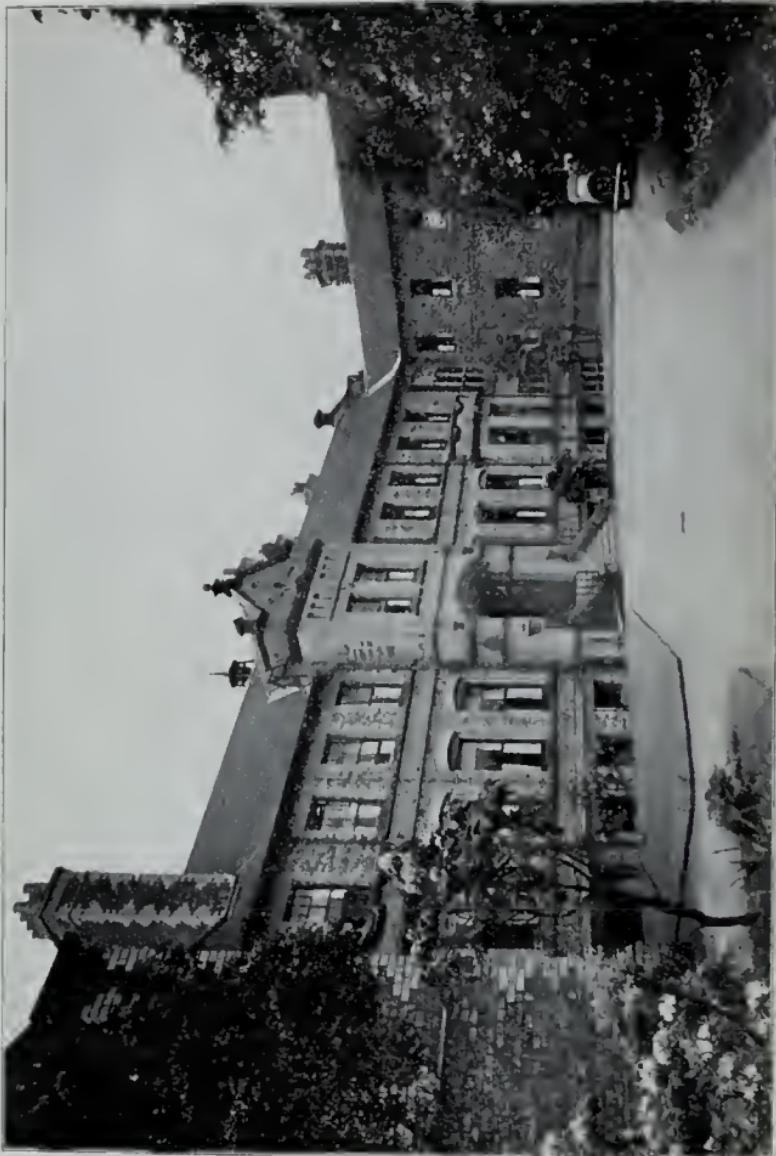
Recognised by the Department of Education and Science  
Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act, 1948  
and the Charities Act, 1960

**Patron:** HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

**Administrative Office:**

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool 15

Telephone: SEfton Park 4782



WAVERTREE SCHOOL

# THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

## OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1967/68

### **President:**

J. C. SMYTH, Esq.

### **Vice-Presidents:**

J. R. GIBBONS, Esq.              G. R. STUBBS, Esq.

**Hon. Treasurer:** A. A. HAWKINS, Esq.

### **Committee:**

J. F. ALLAN, Esq.	A. A. HAWKINS, Esq.	J. C. SMYTH, Esq.
J. M. ASHCROFT, Esq.	Mrs. V. F. CROSTHWAITE	G. R. STUBBS, Esq.
Mrs. A. M. BENNETT	A. S. ECCLES, Esq.	Prof. N. R. TEMPEST
A. J. WANNOP, Esq.	J. R. GIBBONS, Esq.	Mrs. P. WISE

### **Superintendent and Secretary:**

EDWARD KEATES, A.V.C.M., A.H.A.

### **Auditors:**

Messrs. CHALMERS, IMPEY & CO., Chartered Accountants

### **Bankers:**

MIDLAND BANK, Rodney Street, Liverpool, 1

### **Hon. Solicitors:**

Messrs. ALSOP STEVENS BATESONS & CO.

### **Hon. Consulting Insurance Brokers:**

Messrs. GRIFFITHS & ARMOUR

### **Architect and Surveyor:**

Mr. F. O. LAWRENCE, B.Arch., F.R.I.B.A.

THE CYCLE TRACK



Wavertree School for Blind Children  
Church Road, Liverpool 15

Telephone: SEFton Park 1012

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**Headmaster:**

Mr. H. S. D. MARKS

**Matron and Housekeeper:**

Miss R. A. McGREGOR

**Hon. Physician and Surgeon:**

Dr. GERALD BRADFORD

**Hon. Ophthalmic Surgeon:**

Mr. D. M. J. BURNS, F.R.C.S.

**Hon. Dental Surgeon:**

Mr. J. FURNESS, L.D.S.

**Hon. Chaplain:**

Rev. K. M. FORREST, M.A.

**Teaching Staff:**

Miss D. E. WARES (Deputy Head)

Miss P. M. HUMPHREYS, L.R.A.M.	Mrs. L. JONES
Mr. B. HECHLE	Miss E. McERLANE
Mr. R. L. DE LACRUZ	Mr. T. MANNIX
Miss B. WILLIAMS	

**Music Department:**

Miss FLORA CANN, L.R.A.M., Mr. J. R. TAYLOR, L.R.A.M.

**Office:**

Mrs. E. CLARK, Miss M. A. BRANDRICK

# The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool

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This Institution is the oldest School for the Blind in the British Commonwealth and (that of Paris excepted) the oldest in the world. It was instituted in 1791 and incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1829, and for the interest of friends and subscribers a short history is set out in the Appendix to this report.

The Institution until 1957 administered two schools, a workshop and a sales shop.

## **Technical School**

The above School, situated in Hardman Street, Liverpool 1, since 1851 had provided training for blind adolescents and the Workshop department (employment for blind persons) officially closed on the 31st July, 1957. The closure was due to a decline in the number of blind adolescents available for technical training and had affected not only the Hardman Street School but a number of other Technical Schools for the Blind in various parts of the country.

## **Wavertree School for Blind Children**

Its object is to provide Primary School training for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 years.

Since 1958 a development scheme has been in progress at Wavertree School which, on completion, will provide additional accommodation for teaching and residential purposes. Modernisation of the main building is also to be included in the general building work.

*Subscriptions and Donations are received by A. A. Hawkins, Esq., Treasurer, Midland Bank Ltd., Rodney Street, the Superintendent of the School, and the Liverpool Council of Social Service, 14 Castle Street, Liverpool.*

*Subscription and Bequest Forms are enclosed in this report.*

# Annual Report for the Year 1966-67

## Report and Accounts

The Committee of Management have pleasure in presenting their 176th Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1967.

## Proposed Extension Wavertree School

In last year's report mention was made of the purchase of "Abbeyholme" Private School. This School adjoins Wavertree and therefore it will not be difficult eventually to connect up to the Wavertree campus.

With all the major contracts now finished at Wavertree an opportunity has been given this year for consideration as to the best use of the "Abbeyholme" site within the development programme. It is obvious that the site could be used for a number of purposes and the following are some of the new developments considered possible within the near future.

1. Providing pre-school facilities for the North-West Area.
2. Accommodation for an additional stream within the School to assist slow learners.
3. A separate unit for long term assessment of children needing specific training, care and attention.
4. Additional accommodation for residential staff.

Discussions have taken place with the Department of Education and Science to ascertain the type of development required which would be most suited to this area. It is expected that a decision will be made within the next few months as to the best way of developing this new site. The Committee of Management are most anxious to co-operate with the Department of Education and Science in every way possible and so enable the best use to be made of the additional land area now available to the School.

## Blind Education and Training

Throughout the year new equipment has been purchased for use in the School therefore bringing greater efficiency in the teaching methods employed. For a considerable time now, there have been signs and evidence of changes taking place in the education and training of the blind. Various types of new equipment have been developed quite recently and is revolutionising many ideas which have been prevalent for so long in Schools for the Blind.

This year in Watertown, Nr. Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A., the fourth meeting of the International Conference of Educators of Blind Youth (ICEBY) is to take place. The conference is to be held at the Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown.

With conditions changing so rapidly these days it is good to know that such conferences are now being held in different countries every five years.



THE LILY POND

It would be natural to expect that the pooling of ideas and methods developed at the conference will give to all countries who have representatives attending up-to-date and sound information of certain advanced techniques.

The ICEBY had its beginnings at an International Conference of Educators held in 1949 at Oxford, England. The first conference, as we now know it, was held in Amsterdam in 1952 followed by a conference in Norway in 1957. The third conference was held in Germany in 1962.

Perkins School for the Blind, where this year's gathering takes place, is admirably suited for the purpose. There is ample accommodation and equipment and a well organised programme has been prepared. It is expected that applications will be so numerous that it will be impossible to comply with all the requests. A date-line for the consideration of applications to attend the conference has therefore been fixed.

The outcome of this year's conference and its resolutions will be followed with great interest by all Schools and Societies for the Blind throughout the World. Many will be pleased to adopt the recommendations or methods made available to them subject to financial considerations.

Although the last few years has seen remarkable progress in blind education and training, there still remains much to be accomplished. Coming into our Schools at the present time are numbers of children with additional handicaps which tend to create special problems and difficulties. In a general survey within the "Blind World" this particular phase is developing in many other countries besides our own. It is therefore evident that conferences at international level now and in the future are important and will assist in many ways the education and training programme for all blind people.

### **Wavertree School**

This year was an interesting and successful one for the School. Various children took part in Festivals of Music at Alderley Edge and Wallasey, obtaining the following results:—

Three first prizes; three second prizes; two third prizes.

Each school year pupils enter for the Associated Board Examinations of the Royal School of Music and the following certificates were awarded:—

Three Distinctions and two Merit Certificates in Grade 1.

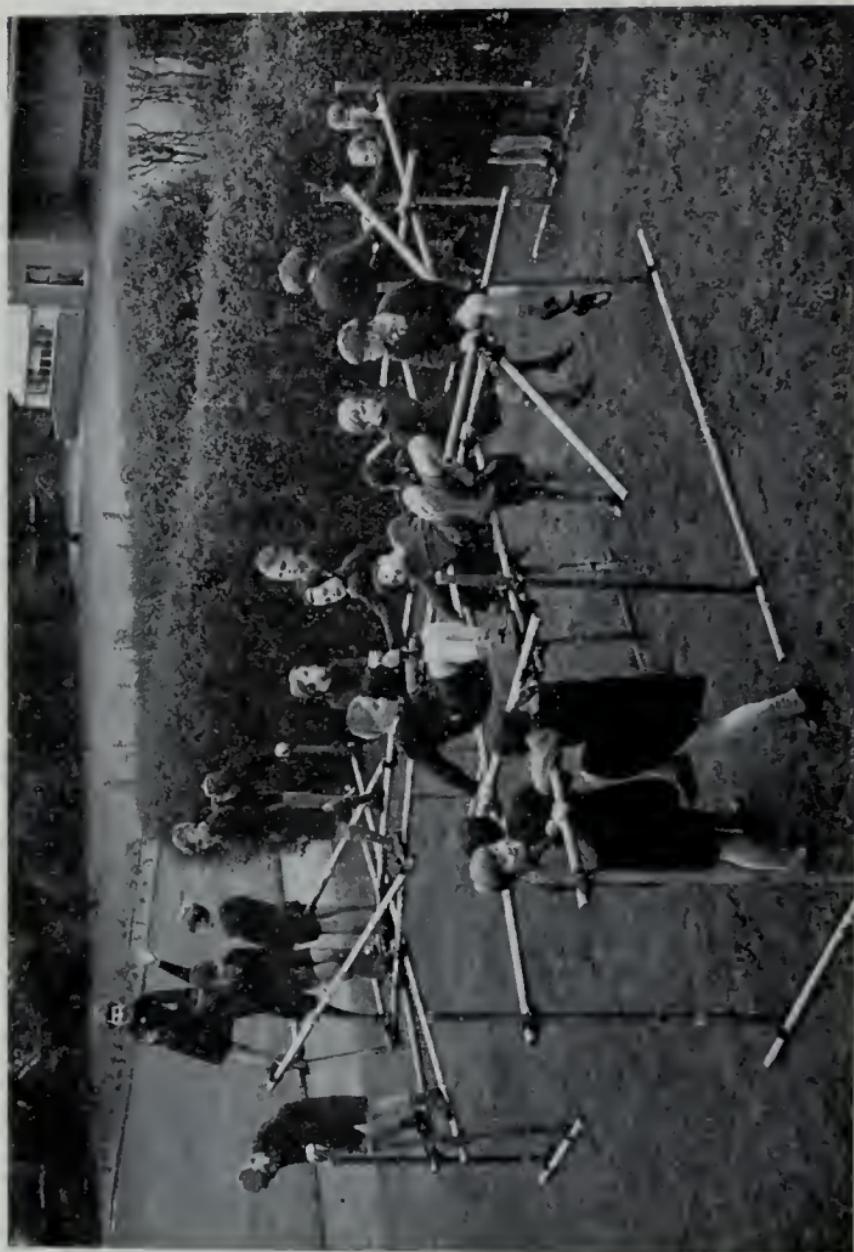
One Distinction and three Merit Certificates in Grade 2.

Two Distinctions in Grade 3.

One Distinction in Grade 4.

At the Northern Braille Reading Competition held at Whalley Range School, Manchester, two pupils obtained prizes in the under-nine age group. They were:—

Wendy Jones—First Prize. Christine Redfern—Third Prize.



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

## **Cubs and Brownies**

The Cubs and Brownies continue to increase in number. This year there are 27 Cubs in the pack. Three Cubs, Leslie Smith, Tony Crabtree and Gary Atherton were awarded the Leaping Wolf Badge. In addition four Athlete, three Book Reader, five Swimmer, two First Aid and three Handcraft Badges have been gained. Two Cubs have joined the Scout Group at St. Mary's, Wavertree and a number of other Cubs have attended neighbouring packs.

The year 1966 was the Cub Jubilee Year and consequently a number of events were held in which the School Cubs (2nd Wavertree) participated. These events included Cub Day at Tawd Vale—an outing which was attended by approximately 300 Cubs from the Wavertree District; the Annual Church Parade; a visit to the theatre to see "Tom Thumb"; and a week-end camp at Barnston Dale.

In this year's "Bob-a-Job" effort, nineteen Cubs were involved and over £10 raised.

The Brownie pack has also had a successful year, new badges gained, new contacts made and developed with local packs. Several of the older girls were enrolled in Guide Troops in the district.

## **Health**

The general health of the children has been good on the whole, although a number of pupils suffered from a 24-hour sickness, during the Autumn Term, which was prevalent in the district at that time.

## **Annual Outing**

The annual outing to Southport took place on Wednesday, June 22nd and was a great success. This event, organised annually by the Liverpool Taximen's Association, is eagerly awaited by all the pupils of the School.

## **Open Day**

Parents' Day was held on Saturday, July 9th and was an exciting and eventful day for the pupils. The parents and friends who attended, showed considerable interest in the pupils' activities. These open days are important in the life of the School as they bring parents and teachers together to help remove any feeling of isolation often felt by parents.

## **Visitors**

Once again the School has welcomed students, teachers and administrators from all over the world. The local universities and colleges of education appreciated on their many visits how readily we are prepared to co-operate with them in their study of special schools.

As usual the children looked forward eagerly to the annual visit of the Lord Mayor which took place on Wednesday, July 13th.

## **Transfer of Children**

This year a total of 18 children were transferred to other Schools. Of this number, seven children went on to Henshaws, Manchester, and seven to the Royal Normal College, Shrewsbury. Two children were withdrawn from the School and two others were recommended for



PART OF MAIN PLAYGROUND

transfer to a School for the Partially Sighted. This is quite a large number of transfers in any one year but it is anticipated that in future years there will be a substantial reduction in the number of children available for transfer.

Despite the large number of transfers, new admissions brought the total on the register at the end of the year to 77 as compared with 83 for the commencement of the year.

### **Committee of Management**

The Committee of Management have given much thought to the various ways considered possible for the further development of Wavertree School as outlined at the beginning of this Annual Report.

As a result of these deliberations a paper on blind education relative to The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool, was submitted to the Department of Education and Science for their consideration. The paper gave much detailed information relating to:—

1. Area of School site.
2. Accommodation.
3. Staffing.
4. Acquisition of adjacent properties.
5. Finance.
6. Present trends in education of the blind.
7. Development possibilities,

and a number of other important details and statistics.

The Committee have received on behalf of the School, the gift of a "Dormobile" bus from the patrons of The Coffee House Hotel situated in the Wavertree district. This new bus is most acceptable indeed and the Committee are very grateful to the donors for their kindness and generosity.

The bus owned by the School prior to this gift has now been sold and the proceeds have assisted with the purchase of pianos for use in the School.

### **School Medical Officer**

During March 1967, Dr. Blair Wilkinson tendered his resignation as Medical Officer at Wavertree School. It was understood, however, that Dr. Wilkinson would continue his services at the School until the end of June, when he will then have completed 21 years' service. Throughout this time Dr. Wilkinson entered very fully into the social activities of the School and will be missed very much indeed by the pupils and staff alike.

The Committee desire to place on record their sincere appreciation of his long and efficient service to Wavertree School as Medical Officer and wish him a very happy retirement.

### **School Chaplain**

Since the resignation of the Rev. J. E. Morris in 1966 on his appointment to St. John's, Ainsdale, the School has been without a Chaplain. Towards the end of the year the Rev. K. M. Forrest, who succeeded the Rev. Morris as Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Wavertree,



SWIMMING BATH (3)

was approached about accepting the appointment as Chaplain and readily agreed to do so.

### **Staff**

During early 1967, Miss Charlton intimated that she would like to retire towards the end of the present financial year. Arrangements were eventually made for her to retire soon after the annual audit. Miss Charlton has given most excellent service to the School over a period of approximately 18 years. The efficient and reliable service of Miss Charlton as Book-Keeper/Cashier is appreciated by all concerned with School organisation. It is the wish of all that she may have a long and happy retirement.

Mrs. E. Clark was appointed in February 1967 to fill the vacancy.

The following names are those of other staff changes during the year:—

Teaching Staff: Miss W. A. McCann and Mrs. S. Corbett left during 1966.

Housemothers: Miss A. Bridge left in May 1966 on her marriage. Miss G. Bainbridge was appointed in November, 1966.

Mr. P. E. Adamson was appointed Gardener in May 1966.

### **Finance**

The income received from investments this year is very much lower indeed than last year, the interest received being £4,066 as against £5,305. This is due mainly to the change in the investment policy now adopted by the selling of certain investments and re-investing in The Charities Official Investment Fund and The Equities Investment Fund for Charities. It is expected, however, that within a reasonable period of time, any loss now sustained will be made good and the general investment fund will have appreciated in value considerably.

Legacies received this year are also less than last year. The difference amounts to £3.650. It is very pleasing, however, to report that donations increased by £282 on the 1965/66 figure.

### **Appreciation and Thanks**

Once again the School has been financially supported by our many friends by way of subscriptions and donations. Numerous gifts in kind have also been received from various Societies and Organisations.

To all who have assisted the School and pupils in any way, the Committee of Management desire to tender their sincere thanks.

The Committee also wish to record their appreciation of the services rendered by all members of the Staff for the year under review.

The number of pupils on the register at the end of the year was as follows:—

Boys 40. Girls 37. Total 77.

The Income and Expenditure Account, the Charity Account and Balance Sheet for the year 1966/67 are herewith submitted.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR  
BALANCE SHEET AS

1966		LIABILITIES	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	GENERAL FUND—			
	Surplus Account			
	Balance at 31st March, 1966 .....	94,869 18 2		
	Add Legacies received during year .....	1,400 8 10		
		<u>96,270 7 0</u>		
	Deduct Balance of Cost of extension of School premises .....	£21,379 17 1		
	Less Grants—Department of Educa- tion and Science .....	9,377 0 0		
		<u>12,002 17 1</u>		
	Excess of Balance Sheet value over pro- ceeds of sale of investments .....	365 2 10		
		<u>12,367 19 11</u>		
	Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1967 .....	83,902 7 1		
94,870	Creditors and Provisions .....	7,447 11 7		
7,354		<u>91,349 18 8</u>		
		5,893 8 1		
		<u>97,243 6 9</u>		
	ENDOWMENT FUNDS—			
	The Cort Fund			
	Balance at 31.3.1966 .....	1,547 0 0		
	Less Loss on sale of Investments .....	273 7 3		
		<u>1,273 12 9</u>		
	Roger Lyon Jones Trust Fund			
	Balance at 31.3.1966 .....	773 10 0		
	Less Loss on sale of Investments .....	136 13 8		
		<u>636 16 4</u>		
	Sir Henry Lucy Fund			
	Balance at 31.3.1966 .....	773 10 0		
	Less Loss on sale of Investments .....	136 13 8		
		<u>636 16 4</u>		
	David Malcolmon Fund			
	Balance at 31.3.1966 .....	773 10 0		
	Less Loss on sale of Investments .....	136 13 8		
		<u>636 16 4</u>		
	Edward Wadsworth Fund			
	Balance at 31.3.1966 .....	773 10 0		
4,641		<u>3,957 11 9</u>		
	OLD PUPILS FUND—			
	Surplus Account:			
	Balance at 31st March, 1966 .....	2,865 5 9		
	Add Profit on Sale of Investments .....	13 15 0		
		<u>2,879 0 9</u>		
	Deduct Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	9 1 10		
2,868		<u>2,869 18 11</u>		
18	Sticks for the Blind Fund .....	18 9 4		
		<u>2,888 8 3</u>		
£109,751		<u>£104,089 6 9</u>		

AUDITORS

We hereby certify that we have audited the Accounts of The Royal School for the correct statement as audited and passed by us and as shown by the books of the Liverpool, 26th July, 1967

**THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL**  
**AT 31st MARCH, 1967**

1966 £	ASSETS	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<b>GENERAL FUND ASSETS—</b>			
— Land and Buildings		—	—
— Machinery, Furniture and Equipment		—	—
— Minibus (EKB 730C) per last Balance Sheet		601 16 9	601 16 9
Less Depreciation		151 16 9	
Sale Proceeds		450 0 0	
602		601 16 9	
— Minibus (GND 746E) donated to School		—	—
83,249 Investments per Schedule attached		75,747 4 6	
13,677 Debtors		16,737 14 3	
3,287 Amounts in course of collection		272 16 7	
49 Cash in hand		49 15 6	
1,015 Cash at Bankers—			
Deposit Accounts		1,756 14 5	
Current Accounts		2,679 1 6	
345		4,435 15 11	
		97,243 6 9	
<b>ENDOWMENT FUND ASSETS—</b>			
4,641 Investments per schedule attached		3,623 10 0	
— Debtor		334 1 9	
		3,957 11 9	
<b>OLD PUPILS' FUND ASSETS—</b>			
2,754 Investments per schedule attached		2,767 10 3	
43 Debtors		12 19 7	
89 Cash at Bankers		107 18 5	
		2,888 8 3	

**NOTE—**

The Balance Sheet does not include the value of Smithdown Road, Menlove Avenue, Abbeyholm School and Wavertree sites and buildings erected thereon, nor machinery, furniture and equipment.

The transactions relating to the Charity known as the Liverpool Ladies Association for the Care and Training of Girls, of which the Committee have been appointed Trustees, are not included in these Accounts.

£109,751

£104,089 6 9

**S' REPORT**

Blind, Liverpool, for the year ended 31st March, 1967, and that the above is a School.

(Signed) CHALMERS, IMPEY & CO.  
 Chartered Accountants.

**THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL**  
**INVESTMENTS AT 31st MARCH, 1967**

Holding	GENERAL FUND					At Book Value £ s. d.
	£	s.	d.			
At Market Value on 31st March, 1964						
3,529 12 1	British Transport 3% Gtd. Stk. 1978/88	...	...	...	2,347	3 9
4,490 0 0	3½% Conversion Stock	...	...	...	2,626	13 0
8,000 0 0	3½% Funding Stock 1999/2004	...	...	...	5,320	0 0
5,000 0 0	5½% Funding Loan 1982/84	...	...	...	4,925	0 0
10,500 0 0	3% Savings Bonds 1960/70	...	...	...	9,187	10 0
182 14 7	3% Savings Bonds 1965/75	...	...	...	146	3 8
5,000 0 0	2½% Treasury Stock 1975	...	...	...	2,125	0 0
400 0 0	3½% War Loan	...	...	...	242	14 0
1,000 0 0	Liverpool Corporation 3½% Stock Irredeemable	...	...	...	540	0 0
100 0 0	City of Liverpool 6½% Mortgage	...	...	...	100	0 0
5,000 0 0	Swansea Corporation 5½% Red. Stock 1976/78	...	...	...	5,025	0 0
4,000 0 0	London County 6% Stock 1975/78	...	...	...	4,080	0 0
Mersey Docks and Harbour Board 3½% Deb. Stock						
4,356 15 0	1970/80	...	...	...	3,158	12 10
British American Tobacco Co. Ltd. Ord Stock 10/- units						
83	...	...	...	...	205	8 6
720	Royal Insurance Co. Ltd. 5/- Stock units	...	...	...	1,269	0 0
3,500	Trust of Bank Shares	...	...	...	1,764	11 8
The United Provinces Building Society Pref. Shares of £1 each						
400	...	...	...	...	400	0 0
The United Provinces Building Society Ord. Shares of £1 each						
250	...	...	...	...	250	0 0
840	Sun Alliance Insurance Ltd. £1 Shares	...	...	...	2,436	0 0
At Cost						
1,600	6½% Treasury Stock 1976	...	...	...	1,564	0 0
12,685 Units	The Equities Investment Fund for Charities	...	...	...	15,997	6 8
12,832 Shares	The Charities Official Investment Fund	...	...	...	12,000	0 0
At Valuation When Acquired						
74 0 10	British Transport 3% Gtd. Stock 1978/88	...	...	...	37	0 5
					<b>£75,747</b>	<b>4 6</b>
ENDOWMENT FUNDS						
At Market Value on 31st March, 1964						
1,300 0 0	3½% War Loan	...	...	...	...	773 10 0
At Cost						
2,000 Units	The Charities Official Investment Fund	...	...	...	2,850	0 0
					<b>£3,623</b>	<b>10 0</b>
OLD PUPILS' FUNDS						
At Market Value on 31st March, 1964						
1,448 18 3	British Transport 3% Gtd. Stk. 1978/88	...	...	...	963	10 6
1,164 0 0	Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Perp. 4% Deb. Stock	...	...	...	692	11 7
1,000 0 0	3% Savings Bonds 1965/75	...	...	...	800	0 0
104 5 2	3½% War Loan	...	...	...	62	0 8
At Cost						
175 Units	The Equities Investment Fund for Charities	...	...	...	249	7 6
					<b>£2,767</b>	<b>10 3</b>

**THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL**  
GENERAL CHARITY FUND ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1967

**OLD PUPILS' FUND ACCOUNT** for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1967

**THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR  
EDUCATION ACCOUNT**

1965/66

£

£ s. d.

Salaries and Wages—

12,444	Teachers—Contributory Service	...	...	13,192	5	11
817	Non-contributory Service	...	...	1,001	3	11
4,409	Nurses, House Parents, Children's attendants	...	...	4,158	0	3
1,639	Housekeepers, Cooks, Kitchen staff and Seamstress	...	...	2,104	11	5
4,953	Cleaners, Stokers, Porters, etc.	...	...	6,354	4	10
631	Gardeners	...	...	653	6	9
2,929	Administrative and Clerical staff	...	...	3,353	11	4
744	Laundresses	...	...	770	10	4
1,296	National Insurance Contributions	...	...	1,437	12	3
	Superannuation—					
734	Teachers	...	...	778	18	0
380	Other staff	...	...	538	3	0
2,689	Repairs and Maintenance of Buildings	...	...	2,300	2	11
259	Maintenance of Grounds	...	...	112	0	5
3,076	Fuel, Light, Water and Cleaning Materials	...	...	3,098	1	9
1,474	Replacement of Furniture and Fittings and repairs thereto	...	...	1,151	18	11
713	Rates	...	...	826	0	2
277	Text Books	...	...	271	15	8
1,082	Apparatus and Equipment for Educational purposes	...	...	1,235	11	11
86	School stationery and materials	...	...	300	17	10
59	Drugs, medical requisites, etc.	...	...	75	12	2
5,432	Food	...	...	5,473	5	1
71	Clothing and uniforms (staff)	...	...	32	6	1
97	Motor Running Expenses	...	...	111	5	9
200	Motor Depreciation	...	...	151	16	9
526	Printing, Stationery, Advertising, Postages, etc.	...	...	532	10	4
200	Telephones	...	...	209	9	8
161	Travelling Expenses	...	...	189	13	3
505	Insurances	...	...	623	3	10
389	Medical Fees	...	...	387	0	0
254	Clothing and Footwear for Pupils	...	...	335	6	2
158	Audit and Accountancy Charges	...	...	157	10	0
42	Incidentals	...	...	40	3	3

Provision for expenditure authorised during the year but incurred after 31st March, 1967—

Furniture and Equipment	...	...	£931	0	0
Clothing (Pupils)	...	...	141	0	0
Educational Study visit to Nth. America	...	...	635	0	0

454	Balance, Surplus to General Charity Fund Account	...	1,707	0	0
			£55,628	3	6

£49,180

**THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL**  
for the year ended 31st MARCH, 1967

1965/66

	£	£	s.	d.
345	Contribution on account of augmentation of wages in respect of Blind Employee ...	347	2	0
48,543	Contribution in respect of pupils whose names are entered in the registers sent by local Education Authorities ...	54,893	16	4
292	Grant from Department of Education and Science (Teachers' Superannuation) ...	366	18	2
—	Refund of superannuation contributions in respect of past employee ...	20	7	0

£49,180

£55,628 3 6



BRAILLE WRITING

## APPENDIX

# A Brief History of The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool (Established 1791)

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This Institution, commonly called the Liverpool School for the Indigent Blind, is (that of Paris excepted) the oldest School for the Blind in the world, having been instituted in 1791 and incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1829.

All institutions owe their existence to one or more great and interesting personalities, and they renew their lives through the inspiration of similar personalities. The School for the Indigent Blind in Liverpool was fortunate to have two such personalities. The first, Edward Rushton, the Founder in 1791, and just over a hundred years later, Miss Mary Hornby, to whom was largely due the opening of the Junior School in Church Road, Wavertree, in 1898.

Edward Rushton was born in Liverpool in 1756, and at the age of six entered the Liverpool Free Grammar School. His favourite reading was "Anson's Voyage Round the World," and at the age of eleven he determined to go to sea, and was bound apprentice to Watt and Joynson, Merchants, and made his first voyage in a West India Merchantman.

During a voyage to Dominica, contagious ophthalmia broke out amongst a number of negro slaves. Rushton contracted the disease by attending the victims when all others had refused help and assistance. The attack deprived him of the sight of his left eye and the right was covered with opacity of the cornea. Thus ended a promising sea-going career at the age of nineteen.

After leaving the sea he lived at home on an allowance of four shillings a week. Out of this meagre allowance, he paid threepence a week to a boy to read to him. In this way he became acquainted with the best in English literature, and struggling bravely against great difficulties, he maintained himself and family as a bookseller in Paradise Street. Later, he became the owner and editor of the Liverpool Herald. Due to his literary interests, he eventually became a member of the Liverpool Literary and Philosophical Society, and it was at one of their meetings in 1790 that he suggested the idea of setting up a benefit club for the indigent blind. His friend, J. Christie, a blind musician, suggested that the scheme should include the instruction of young blind persons. The Rev. Henry Dannett warmly advocated the undertaking, and in 1791 the first Blind Asylum was opened in two houses in Commutation Row. In the next few years, Blind Asylums and Schools sprang up in different parts of the country, as far apart as Edinburgh, London and Bristol.

At the Home in Commutation Row, the blind pupils were taught spinning, basket and hamper making, plaiting of sash lines, rug and mat making, and also music. In the last department, pupils qualified as organists and tuners of pianos and stringed instruments. Strict attention was also paid to moral conduct and religious education. The pupils



SCHOOL GARDENS

came from different parts of the country, and those who came from outside Liverpool were boarded out in specially selected homes. In 1800 a more commodious School was erected in Hunter Street, London Road, and on the 18th of September, 1806, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales visited the school, when he was graciously pleased to become the Patron of it and to present a donation of 100 guineas. The School is still under Royal Patronage, and so far as is known, has been since 1806.

In 1808 and the following years, the School was enlarged to give boarding accommodation, so that the pupils would be under the continuous care of the Superintendent and not subject to the moral dangers when separated from their families and friends in the midst of a large, populous town.

A Chapel was also erected for the spiritual welfare of the pupils and to be a centre of music in the town. Musical concerts given by the blind and the Choral Services at the Chapel were a great attraction in the town and enlarged the number of friends interested in the general welfare of the blind.

In 1829 a special Act of Parliament was passed, to regulate the affairs of the School and the Chapel. When Lime Street Station was opened, the Chapel was removed stone by stone to a new site in Hope Street and Hardman Street and a new School built in 1851 in healthier and more pleasant surroundings. This beneficial change was helped by the selling of the School and Churchyard and the granting of the new site by the Liverpool Corporation. The School continued its good work and the number of pupils increased. The Chapel became one of the popular town churches, celebrated for its musical Services and the preaching of its famous chaplains.

The second great personality in connection with the Liverpool School was Miss Mary Hornby. She was a wealthy lady, unknown, yet well known. Few knew her by sight, fewer still knew of the network of beneficiaries which her busy hands and brain were weaving. Miss Mary Louisa Hornby, the second of three daughters of the Rev. Thomas Hornby, one-time vicar of Walton Parish Church, the Mother Church of Liverpool, was born in 1837. She was the cousin of Hugh Frederick Hornby, a wealthy merchant in Liverpool. She was a great collector of books and prints, and gave £10,000 to build an Annexe to the Liverpool Library to house her collection.

Mary Hornby, though very rich, was bent in early days on a life of usefulness. Inspired by Florence Nightingale, she became a nurse and was in the terrible Franco-Prussian war of 1870. Her next experience was as the head of the Magdalen Ward at St. Thomas's Hospital, London. After this she returned to her native Liverpool and did District Nursing in her own parish of Walton, entirely at her own expense, and made regular visits to the Walton workhouse. What she saw there led her to start a Home for destitute and neglected children in Walton, where she herself lived. One day she found a little blind boy who, by his friendliness, appealed to her sympathy and she took him into her home. Out of that small beginning grew her profound interest in, and prodigious work for, the blind as a class, though it was but one of her many generous acts of philanthropy. She started a blind

SCHOOL GROUNDS (Rear Elevation)



family and was happy in securing the help of two sisters, the Misses Allen, one of whom, thanks to Miss Hornby, became the first Matron at the Wavertree School. In 1898 the School for the Indigent Blind opened the School for Children at Church Road, Wavertree, the money being raised by public subscription. Miss Hornby gave an anonymous gift of £10,000 towards the building of the School, and also gave a subscription of £30 under her own name to the public fund. It is interesting to note that Queen Victoria also gave a gift of £30. The blind children from Miss Hornby's Home were transferred to the Wavertree School, but the Home still continued to work for the blind. It became a busy hive of industry in preparing braille books for the blind and Miss Hornby founded the Braille Writers' Society. The Library at Wavertree was filled with costly Braille books, and the City Library had similar gifts and became the centre for blind literature until the Blind Library was opened in Manchester for the Northern Counties. The books were largely typed by blind people whom she paid for the work, and many copies were made with her own hands. For fourteen years this special work went on and thousands of volumes were sent, from Aberdeen to Cairo, in the interest of the blind of all nationalities and languages.

Miss Mary Hornby also organised musical concerts for workhouse inmates and engaged blind musicians from the workshops to give the items.

One of the latest schemes was the investment of a considerable amount of capital to provide a number of annuities for blind people. She was also interested in immigration and sent many children to Canada. She kept in touch with them and sent Christmas presents. About eighteen months before her death she was presented by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool with a Silver Casket, in recognition of her devoted work for the blind.

This remarkable woman of any age or any country died at the age of 76 on April 3rd, 1913, at Worthing, in Sussex.

The late Rev. T. W. M. Lund, the Chaplain of the Chapel for the Blind, described her in his Memorial Service as "the bent little figure, growing more bent with time, rendering it almost impossible in her later years to look into her face. It was a pity, because the kindness there, written so plainly in the tout ensemble of expression, was not only beautiful to see, but was the negation of the little nervous brusquerie of manner which some people could not understand, and of which she was only too conscious and deplored as part of her natural handicap. But those who knew her best loved her most, and that is the finest verdict you can pass on any life."

Owing to the difficulty in running a town church in these changing days and the changing habits of the people, the Chapel became a source of considerable loss to the School, and it was decided in 1927 to close it. The sanction of Parliament was obtained through a clause in an omnibus Act of Parliament, obtained by the City of Liverpool and the Chapel was finally closed on July 17th, 1928. The site of the Chapel was given for work in connection with the blind and the City Council kindly allowed the School to build an extension of the school on the site. This

extension was completed in 1931 at a cost of over £20,000, and was officially opened by the Hon. The Earl of Derby, K.G., on Monday, October 31st, 1932.

At the outbreak of the Second World War in September, 1939, both Schools were evacuated to Rhyl, the Junior School to the North Wales Blind School in Russell Road and Hardman Street School to a large house, "Northgate," in the same road, with a smaller house, "Penrhyn Lodge," nearby as an annexe. The Junior School returned to the Wavertree School in May, 1946, and the Training School to Hardman Street in November of the same year. Under the Education Act, 1944, both Schools took on a new lease of life. The Wavertree School was approved as the Primary School for the North-West Region for blind children from the age of 7 to 11. At the present time, pupils at Wavertree School are given a Primary School education prior to entering a Secondary School for Blind Children at the age of 11 plus.

At the Hardman Street School, which was recognised as the Training School for the Blind for the North-West Region, trainees entered at 16 years of age. Boys were instructed in the crafts of boot and shoe repairing, brush-making, mat-making and basketry, and girls in the crafts of round and flat machine-knitting and chair-caning. On completion of their training, trainees usually found employment in the Workshops for the Blind or as Home Workers. Eventually, on 31st July, 1957, the Hardman Street Technical School was closed down as there was no longer a call for such a training establishment.

With the closure and ultimate sale of the Hardman Street Technical School, it became necessary to find suitable accommodation for the office and administrative staff. Premises conveniently situated and reasonably near to the Wavertree School were eventually acquired in Smithdown Road, Liverpool, 15, and occupied as offices early in 1958.

In April, 1958, work commenced at Wavertree School on a building extension to provide new classrooms, dormitories and residential facilities in accordance with the general reorganisation at Wavertree proposed and undertaken by the Committee of Management and approved by the Ministry of Education. Each year since the commencement of the reorganisation and building scheme, additional new work has been in progress and among the many additions are the following: modernisation of the older part of the School premises, extensions to the School Hall and Gymnasium, Craftwork Rooms, Staff Dining Room and Garages, installation of a Language Laboratory, erection of Swimming Bath and the replanning of the existing School Laundry.

The number of pupils on the register has been maintained at around 80 and upwards over the last ten years. The staff employed consists of resident Teachers, Housemothers and Domestic Workers, along with adequate non-resident staff providing the services required in a Boarding School for Handicapped Children. It is considered that the Foundation and School is one of Liverpool's oldest charities.

On 8th July, 1966, a notice was received from the Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1, giving the information that the Queen had been graciously pleased to command that the School for the Blind at Liverpool shall be known as The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL

Administrative Office:

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool 15

I have pleasure in assisting the above School in the following manner:—

Annual Subscription	...	...	...	...	£	;
Donation	...	...	...	...	£	;
					£	;

Enclosed please find ..... value .....

Name .....

(Please state whether Mr., Mrs., Miss, &c.)

Address .....

Cheques should be made payable to "The Treasurer, The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool," and crossed  
"Midland Bank Ltd."

## Form of Bequest

The following Form of Bequest is recommended to those who may be  
desirous of assisting the School by way of Legacies.

I GIVE and bequeath to THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, 549  
SMITHDOWN ROAD, LIVERPOOL, the sum of

free of duty, to be applied for the general purposes of the said School, the receipt of the Treasurer of the  
said School for the time being to be a good discharge of such legacy.

## **THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL**

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### **Old Pupils' Fund or Aftercare**

This Fund enables the Committee to keep in touch with all pupils who, after receiving a period of training, have become established in workshops or their own homes, and are endeavouring to earn a living at their respective trades, and who may from time to time, as occasion arises, need advice and financial help.

### **Information for Annual Subscribers**

The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool, being a Charity, is not liable to Income Tax, but generally all subscribers have to pay tax on the income out of which payment is made for subscriptions. The School is allowed under Income Tax Law to recover any tax paid by the Subscriber in relation to a subscription, but only if a seven-year covenant has been signed.

A copy of this form is overleaf for the use of subscribers, and if completed they can substantially increase the value of their contribution at no extra cost to themselves.

**THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LIVERPOOL**

549 Smithdown Road, Liverpool, 15.

I, .....  
(Name in full)

of .....  
.....

(Address)

hereby covenant with The Royal School for the Blind, Liverpool that for  
a period of seven years from the ..... day of .....

19....., or during my life, whichever period shall be shorter, I will pay  
annually to the said School such a sum as will after deduction of Income  
Tax leave in the hands of the School a net sum of £.....

(Figures)

(.....) such sum to be  
(Words)  
paid from my general fund of taxed income so that I shall receive no  
personal or private benefit in either of the said periods from the said sum  
or any part thereof.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this

..... day of ..... 19  
(Words)

Signed sealed and delivered by the said

(Signature of Subscriber)

in the presence of

Signature .....

Address .....

Witness to  
Signature of  
Subscriber

Occupation .....

Note: The first subscription should not be paid before the date upon  
which this deed is signed.



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